

Assembled by DEC (9/27/02) for use by the Air Permits Work Group

Purpose: this information is provided to assist the work group in developing a mission statement for the air permitting functions of DEC. This feedstock/foundation material is excerpted from three sources as described below.

I. Air Permits Legislation 1993 – Legislative Intent & Goals

Note: See 1993 Session law (Chapter 74) on HB 167, Section 1 for exact details: these are excerpts presented to Air Work Group on 9/23/02 taken from power point presentation by J. Kuterbach

Legislative Intent:

- Have a program to prevent, abate, control, and identify air pollution.
- Comply with the federal Clean Air Act.
- Ensure continued receipt of federal highway funds.
- Implement in a manner that meets legislative goals.

Legislative Goals:

- Meet Federal requirements
- Efficient and cost effective permitting
- Accountability on Program Cost Recovery
- Ensure productivity of businesses
- Protect health & welfare of Alaskans
- Contain costs
- Minimize permitting staff
- foster accountability
- improve efficiency of government
- Use appropriate contracting authority

II. Missions and Measures as established by the Legislature via HB 250 for DEC as relevant to Air Permitting Program

HB 250 FY03 Mission and Performance Measures

- **Sec. 60. Department of Environmental Conservation.** The mission of the Department of Environmental Conservation is to protect human health and the environment.

- *** Sec. 61. DEC - Office of the Commissioner.** (a) The mission of the Office of the Commissioner is to provide support and policy direction to the divisions in the department. (b) The legislature intends to measure the success of the office in achieving its mission by considering:
 - (1) the percentage of divisions that meet assigned performance measures;
 - (2) the percentage of permittees out of compliance with state law or regulation
 - (3) the number of critical violations in inspected public or private facilities that significantly affect the health or safety of the public;
 - (4) the average time taken to adjudicate decisions in permit disputes;
 - (5) the percentage of adjudicated decisions that are appealed to the courts;
 - (6) the average time taken to respond to complaints and questions that have been elevated to the commissioner's office.
- *** Sec. 65. DEC - Division of Air and Water Quality.** (a) The mission of the Division of Air and Water Quality is to protect air and water quality. (b) The legislature intends to measure the success of the division in achieving its mission by considering
 - (1) the cost per permit issued;
 - (2) whether the carbon monoxide levels in Fairbanks and Anchorage meet health standards;
 - (3) the average time taken from receipt of a permit application to approval;
 - (4) the average time taken from receipt of a permittee complaint to resolution of the complaint;
 - (5) the percentage of facilities inspected according to risk-based inspection frequency;
 - (6) the number of activities covered by fast-track general permits as compared to the total number of permits.

III. DEC's Air & Water Division has annually prepared a "What we do and Why" handout the past several years as a guide to the Legislature and others about the division's programs. These are excerpts from that document.

What is our Mission?

The mission of the Air & Water Quality Division is to identify, prevent, abate and control air and water pollution in a cost effective, accountable manner.

In other words our mission is: Clean Air, Clean Water.

Air Permits Program- What do we do and why?

Primary Activities

Implement a permit program to

- manage industrial emissions of air pollution
- prevent air pollution from becoming injurious to Alaskans
- prevent significant degradation of air quality
- implement best available technology in industrial operations to reduce air pollution emissions

Provide compliance assistance at regulated facilities

Improve the state permit program

Results

Support economic expansion while preserving good air quality for the employment & health of Alaskans.

Help applicants to correctly identify the type of permit needed and the specific information needed acquiring the permit

Help permittees achieve compliance with permits and public health.

Develop and adopt changes to regulations and policies to address stakeholder concerns, incorporate new federal requirements needed to retain a state-run program, and employ better approaches for meeting federal and state clean air goals that are more responsive to Alaskan concerns and the best interest of our communities and businesses.